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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 9221
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 2652
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5224
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - RESUMPTION OF SIX-PARTY TALKS -
TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Most Tuesday morning papers front-paged the resumption of the six-party talks in Beijing. North Korean chief delegate Kim Kye Gwan said in a speech that the DPRK would not discuss scrapping its nuclear program based on the 2005 joint statement unless the US and UNSC lift their respective sanctions against North Korea.

¶1. "US and China Cannot Allow DPRK to Play for Time" The business-oriented Nihon Keizai editorialized (12/19): "The six-party talks resumed Monday in Beijing to discuss North Korea's nuclear programs and other issues.... The precursory talks held prior to the resumption appear to show that the North Koreans are once again playing the 'attendance' card and toying with the US and China.... The North Koreans regard the prior talks as a compromise on the part of the US, and it is unsurprising that they believe they will benefit from 'playing for time.' There was a media report that quoted North Korean chief delegate Kim as saying that US chief delegate Hill 'easily reveals his emotions,' and more than a few in diplomatic circles are of the opinion that the chief US negotiator is an 'easy mark.' The nuclear test Pyongyang brazenly carried out in defiance of the September 2005 joint statement bears this out."

SCHIEFFER